

MAHCP members meet with Health Minister

Bob Moroz, MAHCP President

Two MAHCP members attended a meeting with Sharon Blady, Minister of Health for the Province of Manitoba on Tuesday, April 14. The members were Kyle Eckhardt, EIT, and Alexandra Smirnos-North, recreation coordinator at Health Sciences Centre.

Both Alexandra and Kyle did a fantastic job explaining what they do, the obstacles they face and smart suggestions for Manitoba's health-care system. Minister Blady listened attentively to both presenters and asked questions, as did Karen Herd, Deputy Minister of Health, Healthy Living and Seniors.

Alexandra was the first to present, her topic being Therapeutic Recreation Acute Care. She gave examples of the broad types of injuries they work with, from spinal cord to adult/adolescent/child mental health disorders. Alexandra clearly brought home the message that non-competitive salaries in her field are hurting Manitoba's health-care system because there's high turnover as her colleagues seek better-paying positions in other provinces.

In his presentation on Regional Clinical Engineers, Kyle Eckhardt said he and his colleagues manage about 60,000 devices within the WRHA and its sites valued at \$300 million. These engineers are not front-line staff, but



From left, Kyle Eckhardt, Alexandra Smirnos-North, Health Minister Sharon Blady and MAHCP President Bob Moroz

do the back-end work to support the front line. Kyle did an outstanding job informing the Minister and Deputy Minister that there are devices not being used to their full technological capacity.

I would like to give a big thanks to Alexandra and Kyle on their excellent presentations. It is my sincere belief that both the Minister and Deputy Minister took a wealth of new knowledge with them and more insight into the vital work being done by MAHCP members.